

CLAVICULA ROSICRUCIANA No. II

The Symbolism of the 4 Ancients

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In this Clavicula No. 2, is given a short explanation of the Symbolism of those Four important Officers of a College, open in the Zelator grade, who are named *Ancients*.

They preside, in the first place, over the Elemental tests, by the symbolical passing through which alone, the candidate becomes entitled to kneel before the Altar of Light, and to join in the Mystic labours of the Order.

It is necessary to consider them, however, in other aspects than as simply preparers of the ordeal of the candidate; and, firstly, what does the Name "Ancient" mean, and why is it applied to these officers?

In the Hebrew Kabbalah, the terms "Ancient," "Ancient of the Ancient Ones," "Ancient of Days," etc., are titles applied to God in His innermost and most concealed forms; and the term "Ancient of Days" is used in several passages in the Bible. This term "Ancient of Days," is said, Kabbalistically, to refer to God *before* the Creation, and its meaning is "Ancient *before* (or anterior to) the Days of Creation"; which days of Creation, mentioned in Genesis, are of course not the simple day and night of this insignificant little solar system of ours, which is but a mere spot in the shoreless ocean of the Universe. The term "elders" (or Ancient Ones) is also used in the fourth chapter of the Apocalypse of St. John, describing the twenty-four thrones before the throne of the Majesty Divine. The word "Ancient," as used in the time of Shakespeare, meant a Banner-Bearer, or Ensign, or he who is worthy to bear the symbol under which

men go forth to war; and we shall see presently, of what and how important occult symbols our "Ancients" or "Antients" are the guardians. The Egyptian Royal Cartouche is, probably, the origin of the armorial bearings of heraldry, the hieroglyphics being the charges; and this cartouche borne upon a pole, formed a Banner or Symbol, whichever you like to call it.

Now the seats of the Ancients in each point of our Zelator Grade, are pregnant with meaning. In the one they are arranged in a column, *as in leading the Candidate from the West to the East*. In the second point, however, *as if they had then finished their office in this respect*, they are placed at the Cardinal points, apparently to mark still further, yet in a secret manner, some particular relations of the *arms of a cross* to the aspirant, who stands *in the centre of that cross*, with his arms extended in the form of the same mystic symbol, and is made to say at the same time that he is then standing in the "centre of the Earth"; just as the Greeks were told that *for them* Delphi represented "*ὁ ὀμφακλόν τήν γήν* ." Also the four Ancients preside over the four elements of Air, Fire, Water and Earth; or as the teaching of Occultism would say, over Air, Fire, Water, and *their Synthesis*; and, therefore, are their robes of the 3 primary colours, one the flame red of fire, the second the blue of water, the third the luminous yellow of air, and that of the fourth is black, signifying the earth, and which colour is obtained by the mixture of the three others. But the Candidate is clad in the white robe, to point out to him that he should not be led aside by the attraction of the elements, but that he should steadfastly follow that path of spiritual purity which alone will lead him to the Divine light.

SYMBOLISM OF THE COURSE OF
ZELATOR PAST THE 4 ANCIENTS.

EAST.

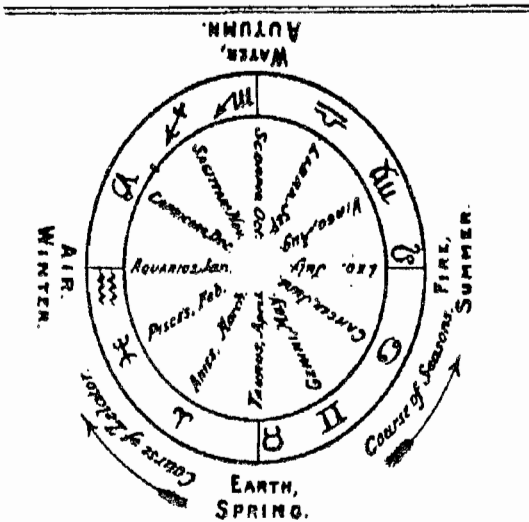
FIRE, ♀, 4th Ancient, July, ♄, RED.

WATER, ♁, 3rd Ancient, Oct. ♃, BLUE.

AIR, ☽, 2nd Ancient, Jan ♁, YELLOW.

EARTH, ♁, 1st Ancient, April ♃, BLACK.

WEST.



the four signs of Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius, which are represented in the Hebrew Cherubim with the heads of the Bull. The Lion, the Eagle (for the eagle replaces the scorpion, unless the symbolism is intended to be of destructive nature), and the Man. For when the Sun enters the sign of the Bull, in April, he stirs up the earth to vegetation, and the Ancients said that this showed that the sign of the Bull especially had an Earthly operation. In the Lion, in July, the Fiery heat is most evident. In the Scorpion, in October, come the Water floods, and in Aquarius, in January, come the keen and biting Winds, of which the element Air is the type. Note that the aspirant is led, as it were backwards, up the seasons in his course past the Ancients, from West to East.

But the Hebrew Rabbis said that the Divine name יהוה, IHVH rushes through the universe, for each letter presides over an element—Yod over Fire, Hé over Water, Vau over Air, and Hé over Earth, and that therefore he who could pronounce it aright would make both heaven and earth totter and quake, seeing that he would have used the creative word which called each element into being. I will, therefore, in conclusion, ask those who wear those mystical robes of the Ancients to remember what they signify separately and collectively; for it is not a light thing to represent materially the forces of the
INEFFABLE NAME!